



## **National History Day in Kentucky Judging and Advancement Policy**

**For Students, Teachers, Parents**

### **Judging Guidelines**

Every effort is made to ensure that judging of the National History Day in Kentucky competition is fair and accurate at all levels. We understand the time and hard work put into each project and while not placing can be disappointing, we do everything possible to inform judges about what to look for in project quality to do their best judging.

Please carefully read the information below to inform yourself about National History Day in Kentucky's policy regarding judging and advancement of projects. It is also suggested that you familiarize yourself with the judging information found in the NHD rule book, which can be found on our [website](#).

### **What to do if you have any comments to make about judging:**

- If you have specific concerns about the process as you observed it please follow the below procedure:
  - Submit concerns in writing to:
    - KJHS, 100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, KY 40601
    - Or, [cheryl.caskey@ky.gov](mailto:cheryl.caskey@ky.gov)
    - Please submit concerns **3-10** days following a contest.
  - Any response will be made in writing. No comment shall be made by telephone or through personal contact unless the state coordinator deems it necessary, in which case they will initiate or invite the contact.
  - Kentucky Historical Society staff, the state coordinator, nor any official at the NHD national office has the authority to overrule, set aside, or otherwise undermine a judge's decision, and under no circumstances shall a judge's decision be changed. This is true whether a complaint alleges scoring miscalculation, bias, prejudice, or any other error. **All judging is final.**
  - Comments and concerns will be taken into account for the next competition cycle and used to improve the judging experience if necessary.

### **What to know as a spectator:**



- Only judges are privy to all competitors' bibliographies and process papers.
- Judges receive the same instructions at all levels of competition.
- **If we provide equipment and there are issues the day of judging this will not factor into the judges' decision since it was not the fault of the student or group.** Students are being judged on the content of their project.
  - If equipment problems occur please contact contest staff **immediately** to see if we can help find a solution. Our goal is to give every student entry a fair hearing.
    - However, to try and limit such issues all students and groups it is suggested that students using technology (primarily websites and documentaries) test their project on a variety of computers and media players.
- **TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES** while viewing **any** student projects.
- Refrain from cheering during documentaries and performances. Brief applause at the end is acceptable.
- **While walking/waiting in the hallways to view student projects keep your voices down so as not to disturb the judging process.**
- While documentary and performance judging is in process, stay in your seats and do not interject with your opinions.
- **Do not** enter a room while judging is in progress.
- Judges have **absolute** authority to remove disruptive individuals from the judging room, and to bar spectators entirely, if they deem it necessary to protect the integrity of the judging process.

Thank you for your cooperation!  
National History Day in Kentucky staff



## **Project Advancement Guidelines**

### **School level contest**

- If a school chooses to have a school level contest we do not dictate the number of students or projects they choose to send. However, in schools with 150+ students completing projects it is suggested that schools have some way to determine which of the students and projects will compete at a regional contest.
- We can provide advice for managing a school contest.

### **Regional level contest**

- Any 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade student competing must compete at a regional contest in order to be eligible for state level competition. Elementary level participation at the regional level is **non-elimination** at this time, but will follow the same judging procedures as upper division students.
- We typically advance the top 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of projects in each category and division (for example: If there are 35 junior individual exhibits we will advance 12 projects). We have this policy because we feel that it is important for students to benefit from NHD participation as much as possible and that the opportunity to meet and learn from more students at the state contest is more important than holding them back; especially as students have 4-6 weeks to make changes to their projects.
  - a. This means that at some regional contests in some categories it is possible for all projects to advance to the state contest just because of the number of projects in that category.
- Each student that advances will receive a medal, but we do not assign 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place at this level.

### **State level contest**

- The national office dictates the number of projects per category and division that we are allowed to advance to the national contest.
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place projects in the Junior and Senior divisions will advance to nationals (for example: the top two junior division individual exhibits or the top two senior division group documentaries.).
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place will also be awarded to elementary division students, but are not eligible to advance to nationals.

### **National level contest**

- 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each category in the Junior and Senior divisions are awarded.
- They also award a number of special prizes. These typically have a monetary value.